

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT A 01952 231556Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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R 231428Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2536

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UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 1952

DOD FOR DSAA

EO 11652 N/A

TAGS: MASS, HA

SUBJECT: HAITIAN SAILOR COURT-MARTIALED FOR DESERTION IN U.S.
FOLLOWING TRAINING AT FT EUSTIS

REF: (A) PORT AU PRINCE 1683, (B) USDAO PORT AU PRINCE 171340Z JUN
76, (C) CDRUSATC FORT EUSTIS VA 221138Z JUN 76

1. THE GOH-CONTROLLED DAILY NEWSPAPER NOUVEAU MONDE
PUBLISHED IN ITS JULY 22 EDITION A COMMUNIQUE
SIGNED BY ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF LT GENERAL HILAIRE
REVEALING THAT ON JULY 6, 1976 HAITIAN NAVY
QUARTERMASTER FRANCIS BLAISE WAS ACCUSED IN ABSENTIA
OF DESERTION WHILE IN THE U.S. ALLEGATION STATED THAT
BLAISE COMPLETED A TRAINING COURSE AT FORT EUSTIS IN
VIRGINIA IN MAY 1976, AND DEPARTED FOR PARTS UNKNOWN IN
NEW YORK WITHOUT LEAVING A FORWARDING ADDRESS. HE NEVER
RETURNED TO HIS POST IN HAITI, AND CONSEQUENTLY IS
CONSIDERED TO HAVE DESERTED THE HAITIAN NAVY IN MAY 1976.

2. A HAITIAN NAVY GENERAL COURT MARTIAL RULED ON
JULY 14, 1976 THAT BLAISE HAD THIRTY (30) DAYS,
BEGINNING WITH THE PUBLICATION DATE OF ITS RULING,
IN WHICH TO PRESENT HIMSELF, FAILING WHICH HE WOULD
BE JUDGED IN ABSENTIA.

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3. COMMENT -- THIS IS A PARTICULARLY EMBARRASSING
BEGINNING FOR THE HAITIAN NAVY'S INITIAL PARTICIPATION
IN THE USG'S MAP-T PROGRAM FOR HAITI, BUT THERE ARE
NOT SIGNS THAT THE DESERTION WILL AFFECT THE NAVY'S
ROLE IN FUTURE MAP-T ACTIVITIES.
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